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MAGNO
LIGHTNING
FOUR
UNKNOWN SOLDIER
CAPT. COURAGEOUS
NOV.
FAVORITES
ALL NEW COMICS
SENSATIONAL STORIES OF
MAGNO & DAVEY - CAPT. COURAGEOUS - LIGHTNING AND THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER
PACIFI OCEAN

Magno and Davey
WHAT DIABOLICAL SCHEME HAD THE CLOWN UNCOVERED THAT WOULD CAUSE A DYING MAN'S BODY TO DISAPPEAR IN A SHEET OF BLINDING FLAME? HOW COULD MAGNO AND DAVEY FIND THIS SECRET OF CRIME AND DEATH BEFORE DAVEY HIMSELF BECOMES THEIR VICTIM?
FERSTADT
ON A LONELY BEACH A WEATHER-BEATEN SHACK STANDS SILHOUETTED WEIRDLY AGAINST THE MOON....
MONEY AND ORGANIZATION! ONCE WE HAVE THEM, WE CAN RULE ALL THE UNDERWORLD OF AMERICA!
INSIDE THE SHACK THREE GROTESQUE FIGURES PLOT AGAINST LAW AND JUSTICE AND AT THEIR HEAD IS THE MASTER CRIMINAL OF ALL TIME.... THE CLOWN

A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY A GERMAN U-BOAT BREAKS WATER AS IT RISES SILENTLY TO THE SURFACE.
YOU KNOW YOUR JOBS. THE FUEHRER EXPECTS IT TO BE DONE WELL
THE GESTAPO NEVER FAILS!
HEIL HITLER!
LOOK! A RUBBER BOAT!
IT'S COMING ASHORE!
LET'S GET IT BURIED...AND FAST, BEFORE WE ARE SEEN
THAT STUFF THEY'RE BURYING MAY BE VALUABLE! WHEN THEY LEAVE WE'LL DIG IT UP.
FAST! A COAST GUARD BOAT MAY BE ALONG ANY MOMENT!

THEY'RE SABOTEURS!
DYNAMITE CAPS! INCENDIARIES!
THINGS WE CAN USE IN OUR WORK!
PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS!
MONEY! A FORTUNE OF IT!
GOOD! LET'S DIVIDE IT! THERE'S PLENTY HERE FOR ALL OF US!
YEAH... LET'S DIVIDE IT!
WHY SHOULD I LET THESE FOOLS IN ON THIS MONEY? BY A LITTLE USE OF BRAIN-POWER I CAN KEEP IT ALL AND THEY WON'T BE ANY WISER!
LOOK! THEY'RE COMING BACK! GRAB THIS!
WHERE?
I DON'T SEE THEM!
NO TIME TO TO LOOK! SCATTER! WE'LL MEET LATER IN THE HIDEOUT!
YEAH! RUN! NO TIME TO FIGHT.. THE COAST GUARD MIGHT HEAR US!
MOVING FURTIVELY IN THE SHADOWS, THE CLOWN MAKES HIS WAY INTO THE DEVIL'S KITCHEN SECTION OF TOWN.
FLYNN'S GENERAL STORE

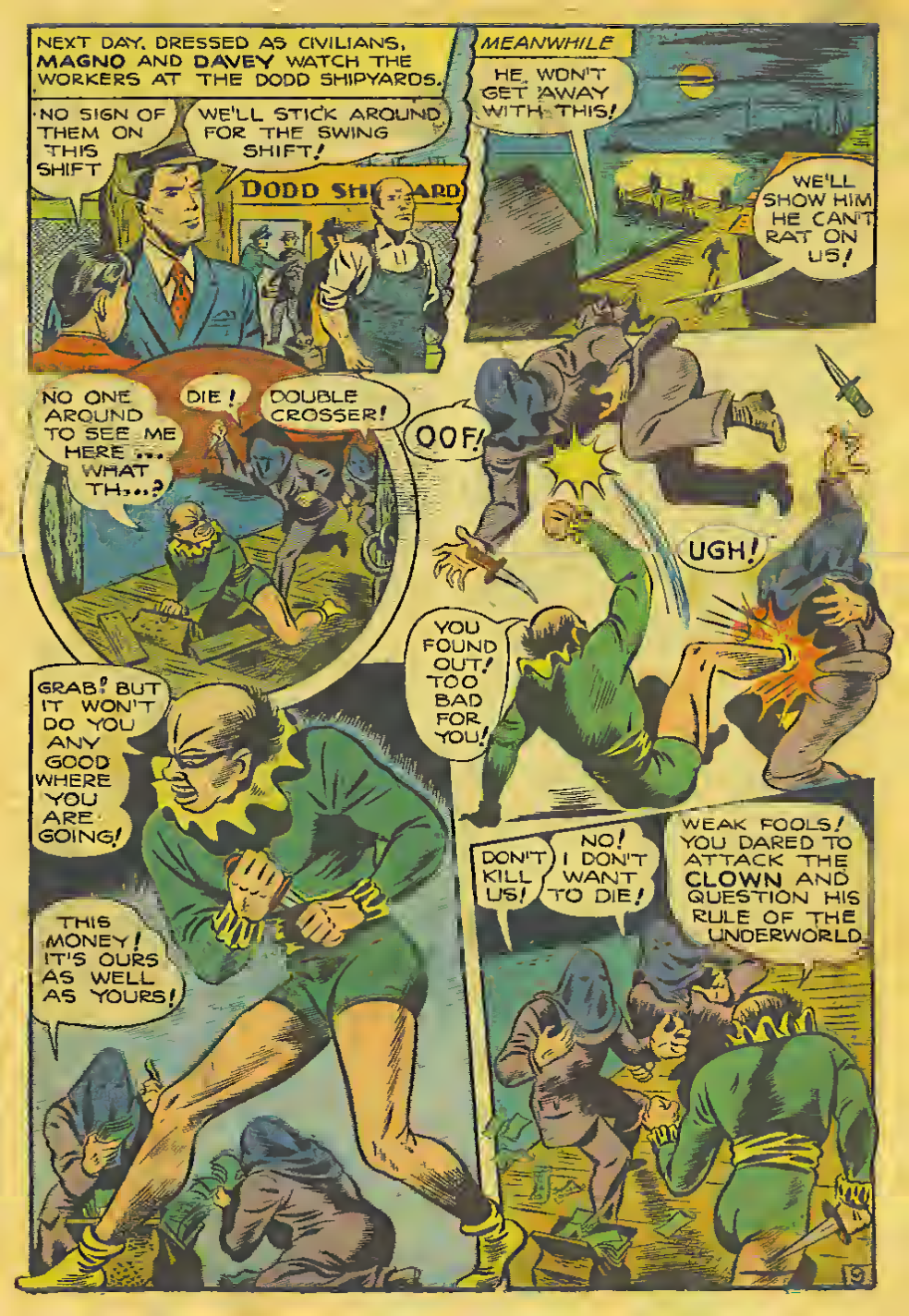
AT A DARKENED HOUSE HE STOPS, AND RAPS SOFTLY ON THE ANCIENT DOOR!
RAP RAP
ZWICKER THE STOOLIE! OPEN UP QUICK! IT'S ME, THE CLOWN! LET ME IN!
THE CLOWN! COME IN!
CAN WE DO SOME BUSINESS? MAKE SOME MONEY?
PLENTY! TAKE THIS BAG! GUARD IT WITH YOUR LIFE TILL THIS TIME TOMORROW NIGHT!
WHEN I CALL FOR IT, I'LL GIVE YOU A GRAND FOR YOUR TROUBLE! EASY MONEY, EH?
FOR A GRAND I'LL KILL MY OWN GRANDMOTHER
NEXT NIGHT, BEFORE GRIM KILLERS CAN START THEIR DEADLY PLANS IN OPERATION
PRACTICE BLACKOUT!
OFF THE STREETS!
LIGHTS OUT!
OKAY, BOYS, LET IT GO! BLUE ALERT! GOSH! DON'T WE HAVE FUN!
CHIEF WARDEN
WE GOT THOSE DEFENSE JOBS EASY ENOUGH!
AT THE SAME MOMENT ON THE BEACH ... ARE THESE MEN DEFENSE WORKERS FOR DEMOCRACY OR HAVE WE SEEN THEM SOMEWHERE BEFORE?
THE GESTAPO IS EFFICIENT.. OUR CREDENTIALS WERE PERFECT
GONE! OUR CACHE IS GONE!
FOR THIS, SOMEONE SHALL DIE!

AND IN THE HIDEOUT OF ZWICKER THE STOOLIE..
WHAT COULD BE IN THAT BAG TO MAKE IT WORTH A THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HIDE IT FOR ONE NIGHT!
I'LL TAKE A PEEK! THAT CAN HURT NO ONE! YYYYY!! A FORTUNE! CASH! MONEY!
THE CLOWN WON'T MISS A COUPLE OF THOUSAND THERE'S MILLIONS HERE! WHAT'S THIS?
HITLER IS YOUR FRIEND AND HE WISHES YOU NOTHING BUT PEACE AND GOOD WILL ETC
THE RAT! THE DIRTY RAT! NO WONDER HE WANTED THIS BAG HIDDEN! THE CLOWN'S GONE OVER TO HITLER.
HITLER
KNOCK KNOCK
IT'S THE CLOWN! HE'S HERE!
MY BAG!
YOU WON'T GET IT! YOU DOG! TRAITOR
STEALING IS ONE THING! SPYING IS ANOTHER! I MAY BE A STOOLIE AND A CROOK BUT I GOT A KID BROTHER BURIED IN TUNISIA AND I AIN'T LETTIN' ANYONE SNEAK FIGHT AGAINST THE COUNTRY HE DIED FOR!
FOOL DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TURN AGAINST THE CLOWN AND LIVE!
HEL...

UGHHH!
DIE! THUS PERISH ALL ENEMIES OF THE CLOWN!
CRASH
SUDDENLY A BLINDING SHEET OF FLAME POURS FROM THE DEAD BODY OF ZWICKER THE STOOLIE! THE BLACKED-OUT CITY STREET IS GLARINGLY ILLUMINATED
ATOP THE HIGHEST BUILDING MAGNO AND DAVEY WATCH THE DARKENED CITY....
SOMEONE'S BREAKING THE BLACKOUT!
THAT'S TOO BRIGHT TO BE AN ORDINARY FIRE... AND TOO SUDDEN!
IT MAY BE TROUBLE! LET'S GET GOING!
AT THAT MOMENT..
LOOK!
ONLY ONE THING COULD CAUSE THAT MUCH LIGHT!
OUR INCENDIARIES! LET'S GO!

AND ALSO AT THE SAME MOMENT
HEY! GET THAT LIGHT OUT!
TWEET TWEET TWEET
BLACKOUT! GET UNDER COVER!
MAGNO AND DAVEY ARE THE FIRST TO ARRIVE.
IT'S A MAN'S BODY ON FIRE! LOOK AT THIS MONEY SCATTERED AROUND!
DON'T TRY TO GET ANY CLOSER! WE'RE TOO LATE TO SAVE HIM!
MOST OF THIS MONEY IS GOOD! SOME ARE COUNTERFEIT!
THEY GOT OUR MONEY! THEY MUST BE THE ONES WHO DUG IT UP!
AT THEM!
UNAWARE THAT THEY ARE ATTACKING AMERICA'S ACE CRIME BUSTERS, THE SPIES RUSH IN FOR THE KILL
HEY WHAT'S THIS?
A FIGHT! GOOD!
FINISH THEM! QUICKLY!
I'M NOT SURE WHY YOU GUYS STARTED THIS..
SOCK
BUT IT PROBABLY HAS TO DO WITH THIS BURNING BODY!
OH YOU MISSE
HEY! WHAT DID I LET MYSELF IN FOR?

HEY! BLACKOUT! PUT OUT THAT FIRE!
BREAK IT UP! GET OFF THE STREETS!
LOOK OUT! HOLD THOSE GUYS!
PULL THE GUYS APART!
YOU CAN ALL BE ARRESTED FOR THIS
LET US GO! DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
HOLY HAT! IT.. IT'S MAGNO AND DAVEY!
RELAX, DAVEY! NO POINT IN RUNNING NOW. THEY'VE LOST THEMSELVES IN THE BLACKOUT!
IN A NEARBY DOORWAY
THOSE WERE THE SPIES AFTER THEIR MONEY WHICH THE CLOWN CLAIMED THEY TOOK BACK FROM HIM! HE WAS LYING! GOOD THING I FOLLOWED HIM!
LOOK, MAGNO! ONE OF THEM LOST HIS WORK BUTTON! DODD SHIPYARDS!
GOOD! WE'LL VISIT THE SHIPYARDS TO-MORROW.

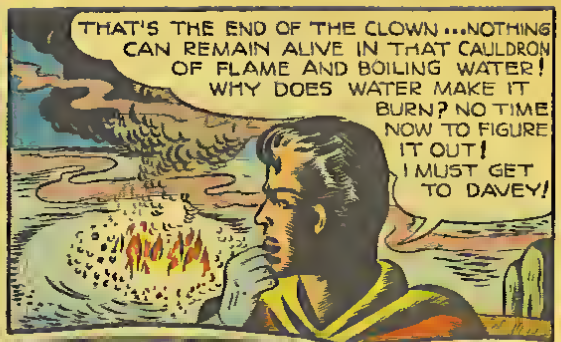

NEXT DAY, DRESSED AS CIVILIANS, MAGNO AND DAVEY WATCH THE WORKERS AT THE DODD SHIPYARDS.
NO SIGN OF THEM ON THIS SHIFT
WE'LL STICK AROUND FOR THE SWING SHIFT!
DODD SHIPYARD
MEANWHILE
HE WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
WE'LL SHOW HIM HE CAN'T RAT ON US!
NO ONE AROUND TO SEE ME HERE ... WHAT TH...?
DIE!
DOUBLE CROSSER!
OOF!
UGH!
YOU FOUND OUT! TOO BAD FOR YOU!
GRAB! BUT IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD WHERE YOU ARE GOING!
THIS MONEY! IT'S OURS AS WELL AS YOURS!
DON'T KILL US!
NO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
WEAK FOOLS! YOU DARED TO ATTACK THE CLOWN AND QUESTION HIS RULE OF THE UNDERWORLD.
9

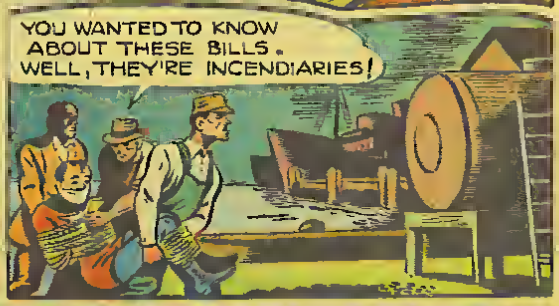
FRANTIC WITH FEAR THE CLOWN'S EX-PARTNERS SEEK SAFETY IN THE RIVER
SPLASH
AS IF BY SOME BLACK MAGIC, THE TWO SWIMMING FIGURES ARE ENVELOPED IN WHITE HOT PILLARS OF FLAME!
WHAT?
AAAGH
EEEE!
WHITE FLAMES HOTTER THAN THE HANDLE TO HADES! THE SAME THAT KILLED ZWICKER THE STOOLIE! WHAT CAUSES IT? WHAT POWER HAVE I TO BRING IT ABOUT?
DAVEY, LOOK! THAT INCENDIARY FIRE AGAIN!
IT'S AT THE RIVER FRONT! LET'S GO!
GOOD SHIP VULCAN
NO! YOU WAIT HERE! I'LL INVESTIGATE THAT END!
GO TO IT! BUT I SURE HOPE YOU DON'T GET ALL THE EXCITEMENT
THINGS ARE GOING TO POP ANY MINUTE! ONE WAY OR THE OTHER I BETTER BE READY!
MAGNO!
CLOWN! SO YOU'RE MIXED UP IN THIS!

WAIT A MINUTE. WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU HOPPED UP HERO!
KROK
UGH!
YIII
WHAM
MEANWHILE
HERE COME THE THREE SPIES..AND NO ONE ELSE AROUND!
HELLO! ISN'T THIS THE MONEY YOU FOUGHT FOR LAST NIGHT?
YIII! IT IS THE LITTLE ONE!
AND ALONE!
GRAB HIM!
OH! SO YOU WANT TO FIGHT SOME MORE? THAT'S NICE!
SOK
CRACK
UNGH
OOF!

HOW'S THIS FOR A HAYMAKER.. OW!
AT THAT MOMENT..
DAVEY! HE'S IN TROUBLE! HIS MAGNETIC POWER'S GONE OFF! I'VE GOT TO FINISH THE CLOWN QUICKLY SO I CAN HELP DAVEY!
AH! HOW DO YOU LIKE MY BATTING AVERAGE?
SMASH
I'LL SMASH YOUR BRAINS TO A PULP!
I DON'T THINK I'D LIKE THAT SO MUCH.
CRASH
I'LL STILL USE GOOD OLD AMERICAN FISTS!
HE'S GETTING THE BEST OF ME! I'LL GRAB MY MONEY AND MAKE A RUN FOR IT!
MAYBE I CAN GET AWAY UNDERWATER!

RUSHING TO FOLLOW, MAGNO STOPS SHORT AS A GEYSER OF WHITE HOT FLAME LEAPS UPWARD FROM THE SPOT WHERE THE CLOWN PLUNGED.
GOOD HEAVENS!


THAT'S THE END OF THE CLOWN...NOTHING CAN REMAIN ALIVE IN THAT CAULDRON OF FLAME AND BOILING WATER! WHY DOES WATER MAKE IT BURN? NO TIME NOW TO FIGURE IT OUT! I MUST GET TO DAVEY!

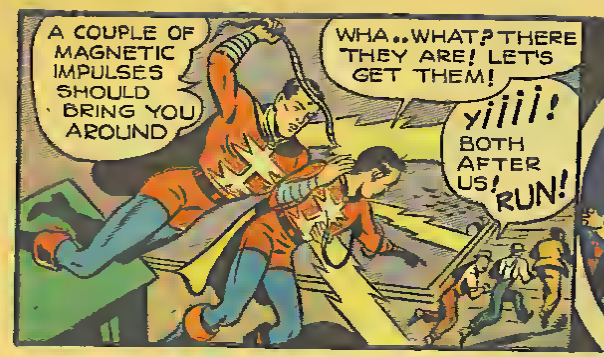

YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THESE BILLS. WELL, THEY'RE INCENDIARIES!

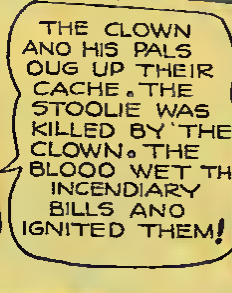
WHEN WE DROP YOU INTO THIS GASOLINE, THE BILLS WILL GET WET...THAT'S WHEN THEY START TO BURN...

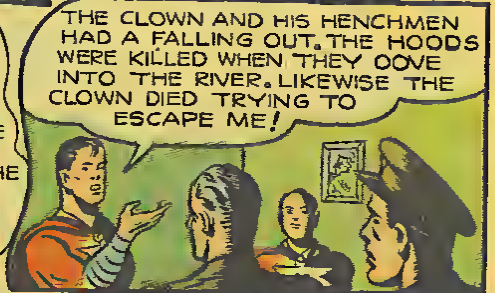
A FIRE HERE WILL CAUSE A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION AND WRECK THE ENTIRE SHIPYARD! WE GET RID OF YOU AND ACCOMPLISH OUR SABOTAGE AT THE SAME TIME!

HEIL HITLER!
LET'S RUN BEFORE WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION!

THANK GOODNESS I GOT HERE IN TIME!





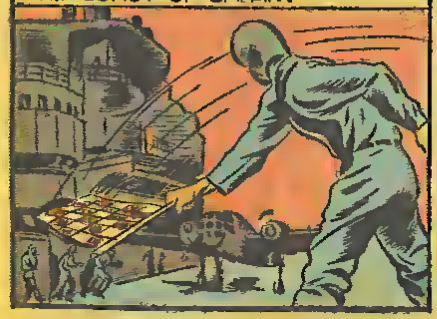


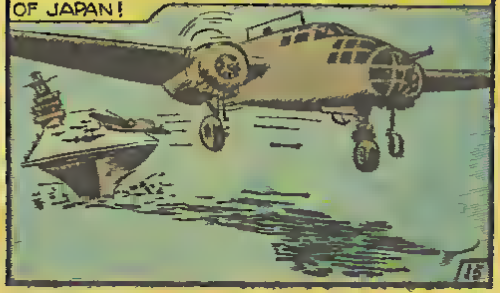
AND YOU, READERS WILL ALSO HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE... SO RESERVE YOUR COPY OF THE NEXT ISSUE OF

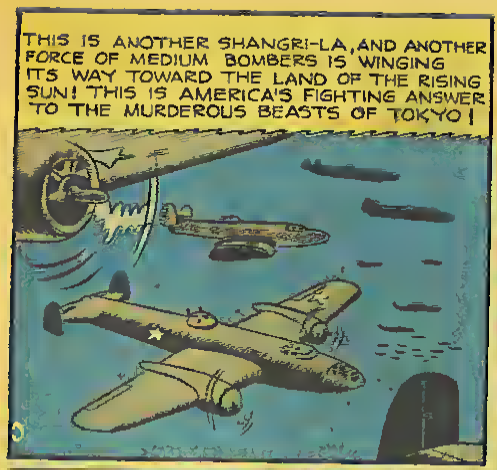
4 FAVORITES

CAPT. COURAGEOUS

EVEN BRAVE MEN QUAIL AT THE SOUND OF HIS NAME, FOR WHERE HE TRAVELS DEATH AND DISASTER AND WANTON HELL-SPAWNED CRUELTY FOLLOW! EVIL AS IS THE NAZI BEAST, SO MUCH MORE EVIL IS CAPTAIN NIPPO... AND SLY AND TREACHEROUS AS IS THE JAP, SO MUCH LESS TO BE TRUSTED IS THE ACE OF ALL AXIS AGENTS, CAPTAIN NIPPO!





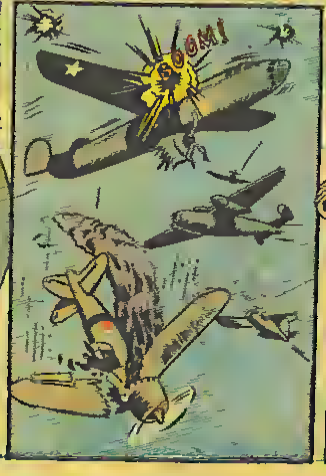

THIS IS ANOTHER SHANGRI-LA, AND ANOTHER FORCE OF MEDIUM BOMBERS IS WINGING ITS WAY TOWARD THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN! THIS IS AMERICA'S FIGHTING ANSWER TO THE MURDEROUS BEASTS OF TOKYO!

ON AN ISLAND OUTPOST!
YIIII! SOUND ALARM!
LOOK! AMERICAN BOMBERS!
WHY DO THEY CALL THAT MAN DOOLITTLE!

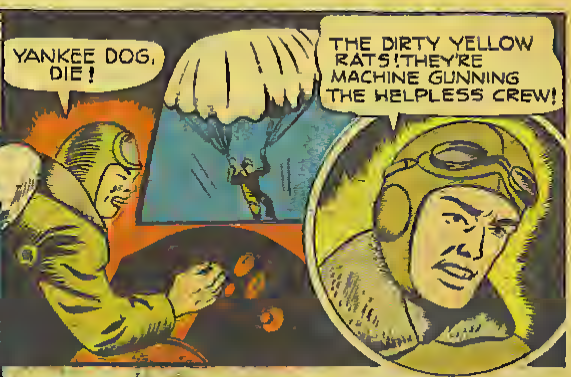
ACK-ACK
ACK ADAT!
ACK ADAT
RAT AT ATAT

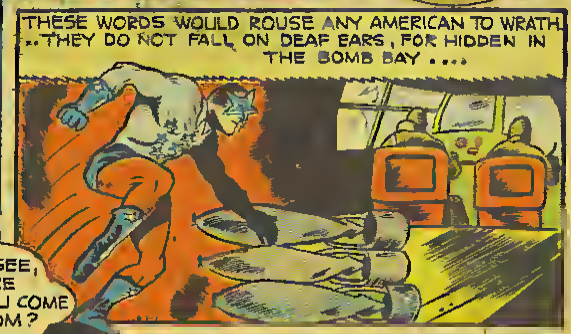
HERE THEY COME! POUR IT INTO THEM!

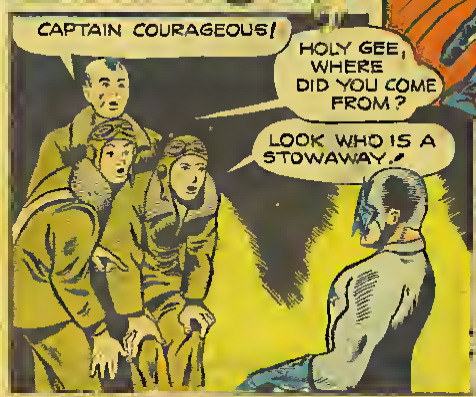
COME AND GET IT, HOT LEAD FOR BREAKFAST, YOU YELLOW RATS!
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT!

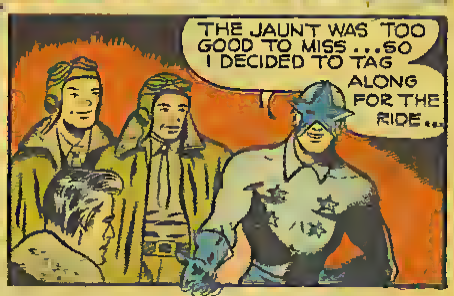

BOOM!

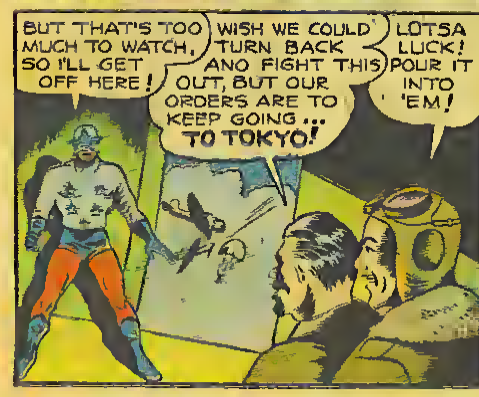
THAT DOES FOR US MEN! BAIL OUT!


YANKEE DOG, DIE!
THE DIRTY YELLOW RATS! THEY'RE MACHINE GUNNING THE HELPLESS CREW!


THESE WORDS WOULD ROUSE ANY AMERICAN TO WRATH ..THEY DO NOT FALL ON DEAF EARS, FOR HIDDEN IN THE BOMB BAY ....

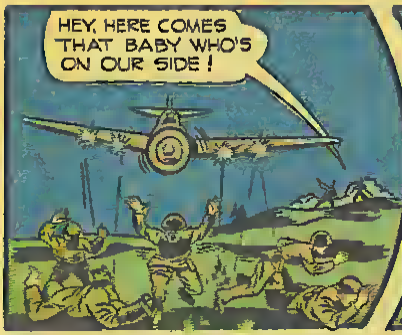

CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS!
HOLY GEE, WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
LOOK WHO IS A STOWAWAY!


THE JAUNT WAS TOO GOOD TO MISS ...SO I DECIDED TO TAG ALONG FOR THE RIDE...

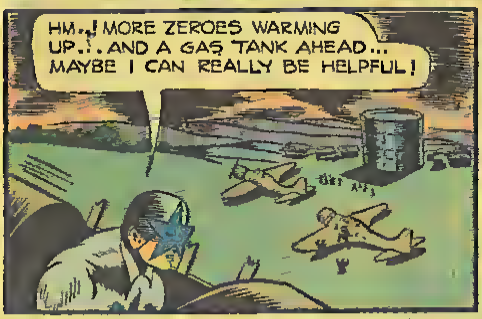

BUT THAT'S TOO MUCH TO WATCH, SO I'LL GET OFF HERE!
WISH WE COULD TURN BACK AND FIGHT THIS OUT, BUT OUR ORDERS ARE TO KEEP GOING ... TO TOKYO!
LOTSA LUCK! POUR IT INTO 'EM!

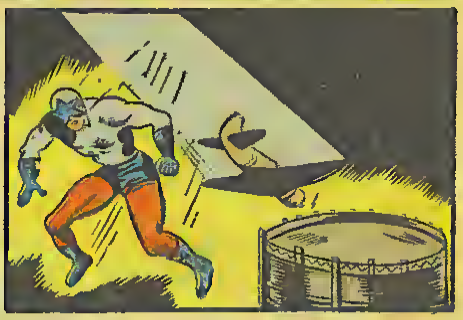
THE MURDERING DOGS! THOSE CHUTISTS DON'T STAND A CHANCE OF CAUSING HARM OR ESCAPING IMPRISONMENT! SHOOTING THEM IS SHEER, WANTON MURDER!

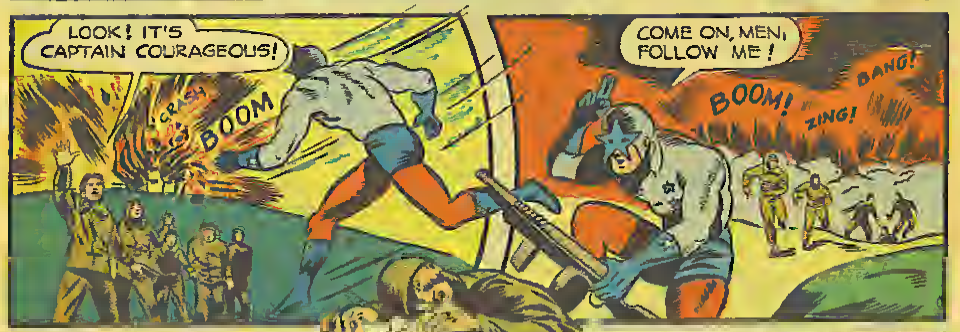
NOT NOW, NOT EVER!
YIIIII! IS AMERICAN DEVIL!
AH! NOW!
BEAT IT YOU! I ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE HOW THESE ZEROES WORK
THESE ARE THE TRIGGERS! OKAY, YELLA BOYS, HERE COMES A THUNDER-BOLT!
NEVERMIND PARACHUTISTS! AFTER THE BOMBERS!
THOSE BABIES CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES... THE BOYS LANDING NEED HELP!
GUESS THEY'RE NOT INTERESTED IN TAKING PRISONERS!
IN THAT CASE WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE A COUPLE OF JAPS WITH US!
BANG


HEY, HERE COMES THAT BABY WHO'S ON OUR SIDE!

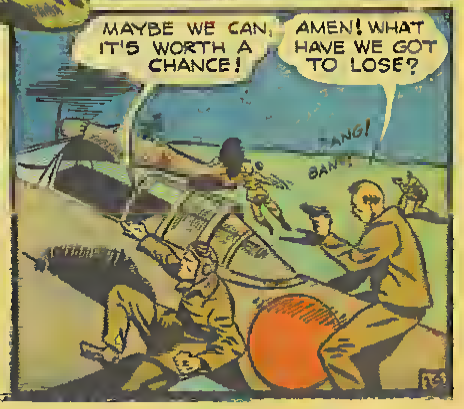
NICE WORK! VERY NICE WORK!
BOOM!

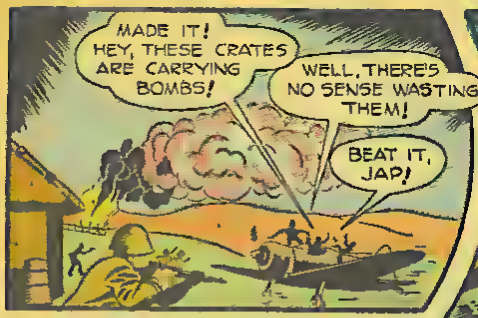

HM..! MORE ZEROES WARMING UP..! AND A GAS TANK AHEAD... MAYBE I CAN REALLY BE HELPFUL!




LOOK! IT'S CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS!
CRASH
BOOM
COME ON, MEN, FOLLOW ME!
BOOM!
ZING!
BANG!

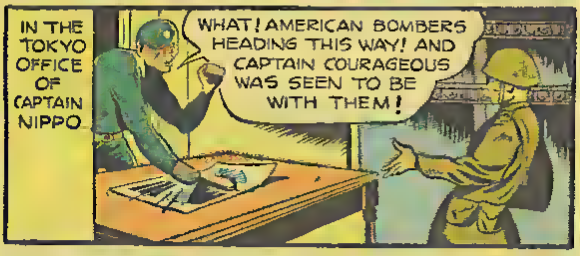
WHERE TO?
MAYBE WE CAN MAKE A GETAWAY IN ONE OF THOSE ZEROES!
BANG!
BOOM!
BANG!
BANG!

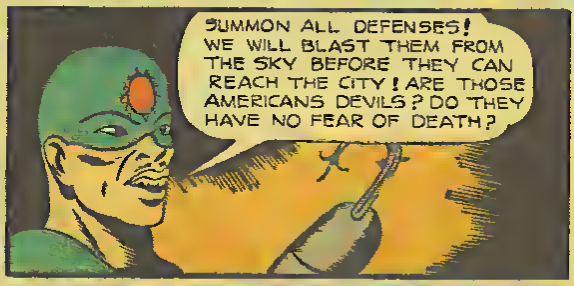

MAYBE WE CAN, IT'S WORTH A CHANCE!
AMEN! WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO LOSE?
BANG!
BANG!


MADE IT! HEY, THESE CRATES ARE CARRYING BOMBS!
WELL, THERE'S NO SENSE WASTING THEM!
BEAT IT, JAP!

THANKS, NIPS!
BOOM
BOOM

A SHORT WHILE AFTER ESTABLISHING RADIO CONTACT, THE SMALLER AND FASTER JAP PLANES OVERHAUL THE FLIGHT AND THE JAP PLANES ARE DESERTED
OKAY, HAUL THEM UP!

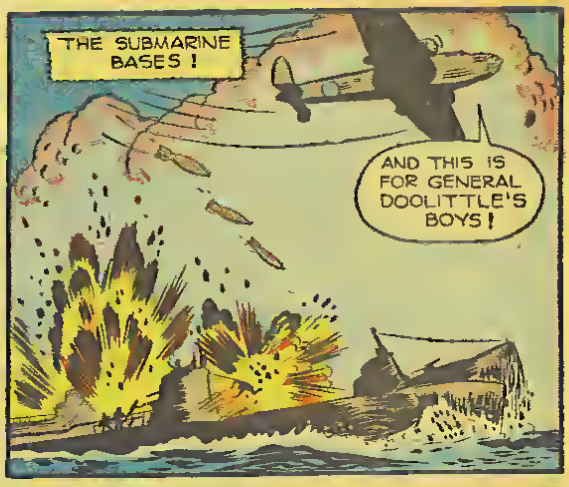

IN THE TOKYO OFFICE OF CAPTAIN NIPPO
WHAT! AMERICAN BOMBERS HEADING THIS WAY! AND CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS WAS SEEN TO BE WITH THEM!

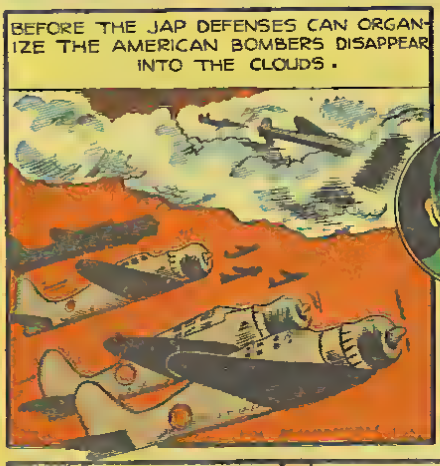

SUMMON ALL DEFENSES! WE WILL BLAST THEM FROM THE SKY BEFORE THEY CAN REACH THE CITY! ARE THOSE AMERICANS DEVILS? DO THEY HAVE NO FEAR OF DEATH?

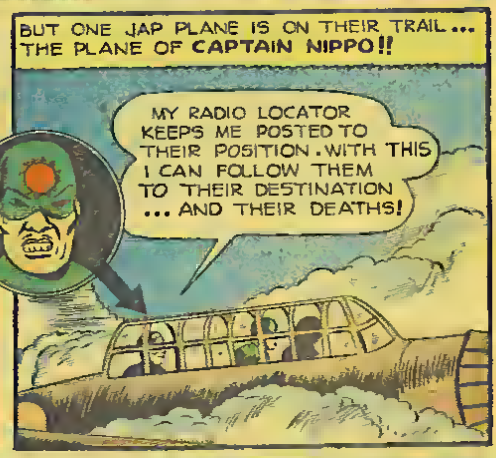
BUT BEFORE JAP FIGHTERS CAN TAKE TO THE AIR....
BOOOM!

THE WATERFRONT
THIS IS FOR PEARL HARBOR!

THE FACTORIES!
AND THIS IS FOR BATAAN!


THE SUBMARINE BASES!
AND THIS IS FOR GENERAL DOOLITTLE'S BOYS!

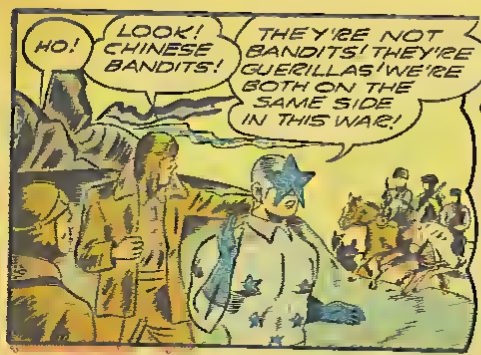

BEFORE THE JAP DEFENSES CAN ORGANIZE THE AMERICAN BOMBERS DISAPPEAR INTO THE CLOUDS.


BUT ONE JAP PLANE IS ON THEIR TRAIL... THE PLANE OF CAPTAIN NIPPO!!
MY RADIO LOCATOR KEEPS ME POSTED TO THEIR POSITION. WITH THIS I CAN FOLLOW THEM TO THEIR DESTINATION ... AND THEIR DEATHS!

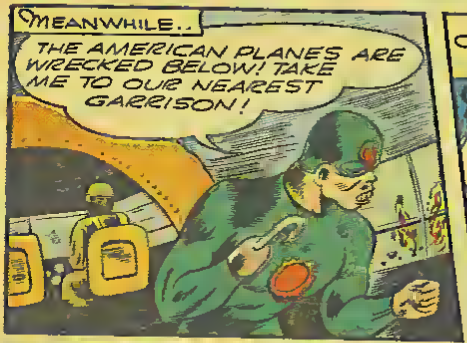
WELL, BOYS, THE WIND WAS TOO STRONG FOR US TO GET PAST JAP OCCUPIED TERRITORY. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF GAS! BAIL OUT AND MAY GOD BE WITH YOU!

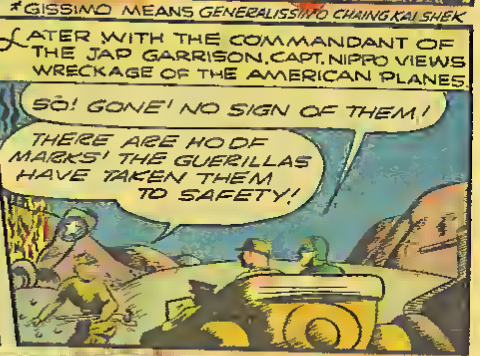
LOOK, MAYBE GIANT BIRDS OF ISLAND DWARFS!
COME, WE SEE! IF SO WE KILL!

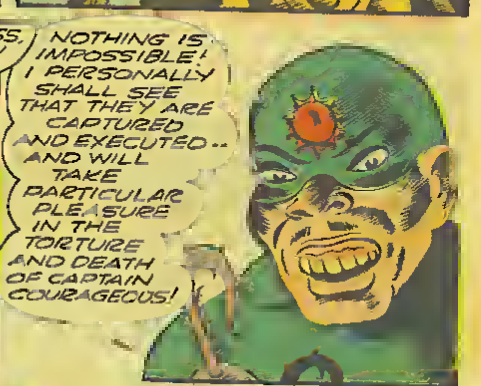
NO! HOLD FIRE! ARE WHITE BRETHREN FROM ACROSS OCEAN!

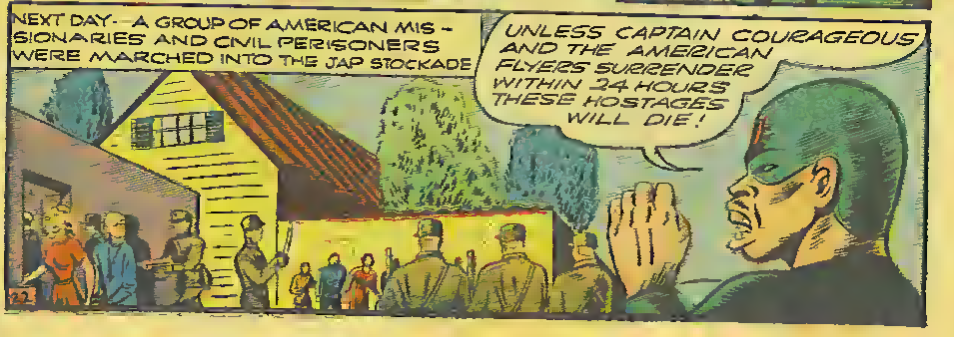


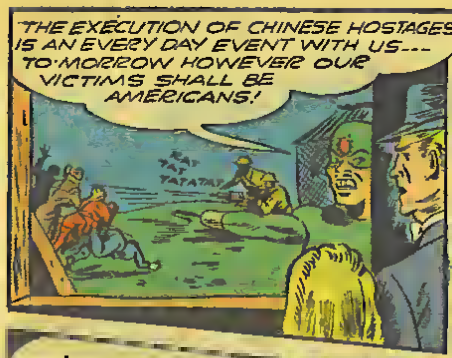
*GISSIMO MEANS GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI SHEK





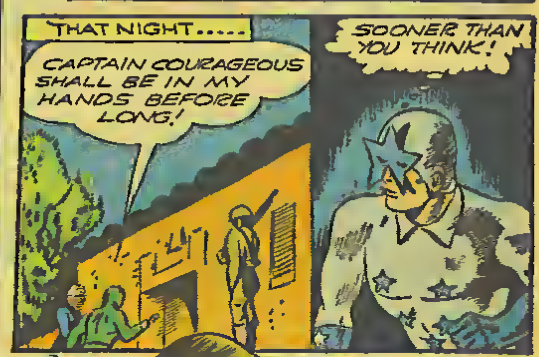





THE EXECUTION OF CHINESE HOSTAGES IS AN EVERY DAY EVENT WITH US--- TO-MORROW HOWEVER OUR VICTIMS SHALL BE AMERICANS!
RAT TAT TATATAT

VILLAGER SAY UNLESS YOU SURRENDER, AMERICAN PRISONERS BE KILLED!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.. WE CAN'T LET HOSTAGES BE SHOT BECAUSE OF US!

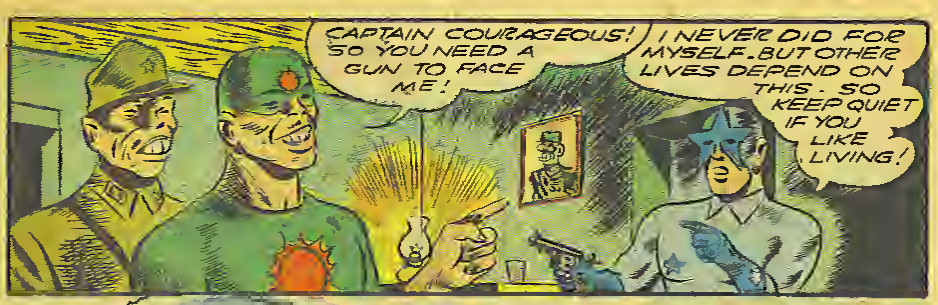
NO! MUST NOT GIVE IN TO ISLAND DWARFS! THEY KILL YOU THEN THEY KILL HOSTAGES, TOO!
HE'S RIGHT WE'VE GOT TO FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE! I THINK I HAVE A GOOD PLAN!


THAT NIGHT.....
CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS SHALL BE IN MY HANDS BEFORE LONG!
SOONER THAN YOU THINK!

QUIETLY!

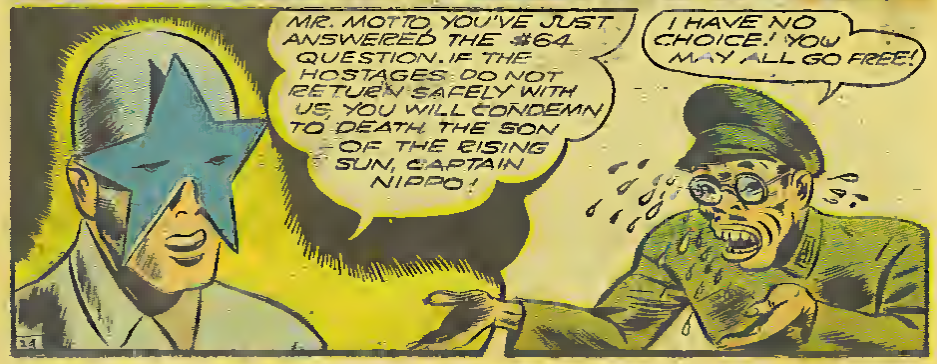
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
PERFECTLY!

THIS IS THE DAY I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR - IT WILL BE THE FRUITION OF ALL MY DR.....!
YOUR WHAT?

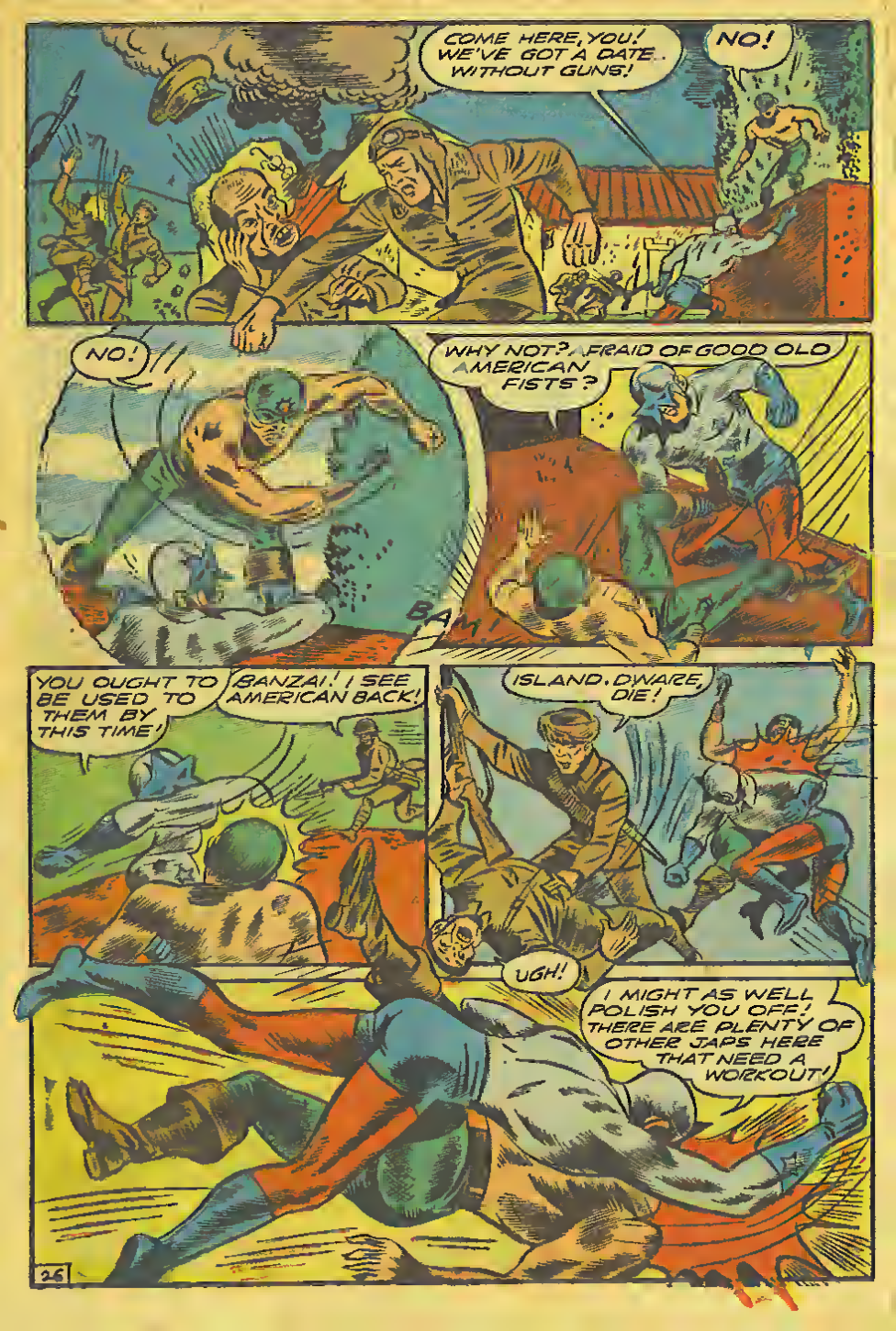

CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS! SO YOU NEED A GUN TO FACE ME!
I NEVER DID FOR MYSELF. BUT OTHER LIVES DEPEND ON THIS - SO KEEP QUIET IF YOU LIKE LIVING!

NEXT MORNING
THEY ARE HERE, EXCELLENCY! THE AMERICANS!
WHERE IS CAPTAIN NIPPO! CERTAINLY HE SHOULD BE HERE AT THIS MOMENT OF HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH!

I FIND YOU GUILTY OF CRIME OF BOMBING JAPAN! FOR THIS YOU MUST ALL DIE!
NOT SO FAST, MR. MOTO! TAKE A LOOK..
...THIS!
Yi! IS SHIRT OF CAPTAIN NIPPO! OF SON OF RISING SUN!

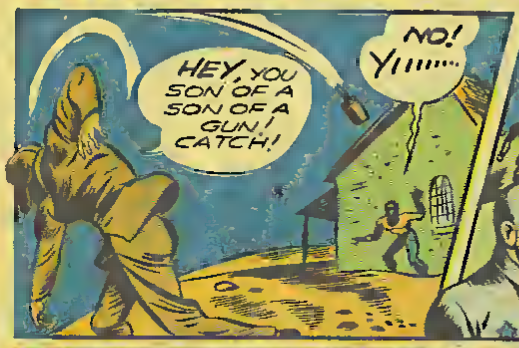

MR. MOTO YOU'VE JUST ANSWERED THE #64 QUESTION. IF THE HOSTAGES DO NOT RETURN SAFELY WITH US, YOU WILL CONDEMN TO DEATH THE SON OF THE RISING SUN, CAPTAIN NIPPO!
I HAVE NO CHOICE! YOU MAY ALL GO FREE!

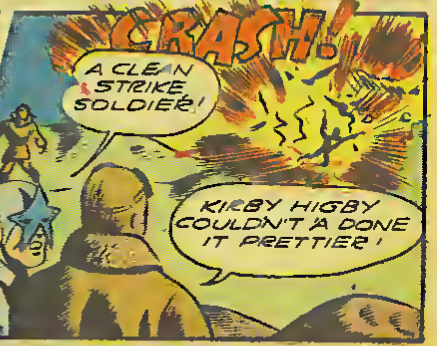
NOT SO FAST!
CAPTAIN NIPPO! ESCAPED!
A BRILLIANT DISCOVERY, CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS! BY THIS TIME YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT ORDINARY BARS AND BONDS WILL NOT HOLD CAPTAIN NIPPO!
BOOM
MOW DOWN THE AMERICAN SWINE!
Y.....
FIRE!
YOU DID THAT JOB LAST NIGHT TO PERFECTION! NOW LET'S FINISH IT!

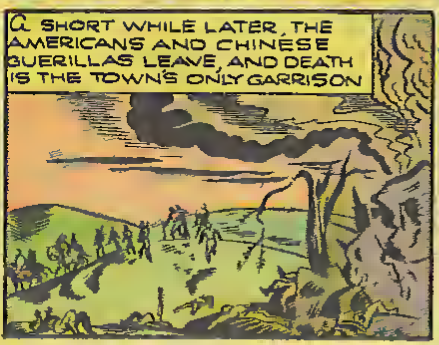

COME HERE, YOU! WE'VE GOT A DATE.. WITHOUT GUNS!
NO!
NO!
WHY NOT? AFRAID OF GOOD OLD AMERICAN FISTS?
BAM!
YOU OUGHT TO BE USED TO THEM BY THIS TIME!
BANZAI! I SEE AMERICAN BACK!
ISLAND DWARF, DIE!
UGH!
I MIGHT AS WELL POLISH YOU OFF! THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER JAPS HERE THAT NEED A WORKOUT!

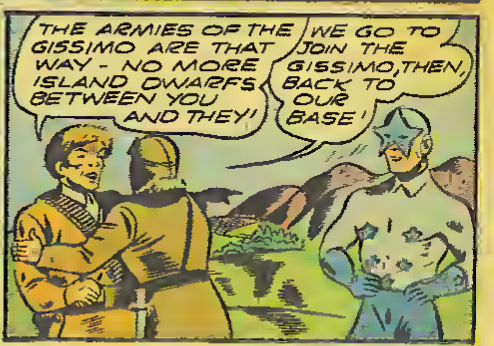
ENOUGH! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

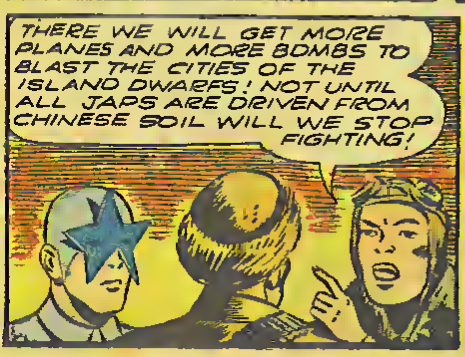
AMERICAN DEMON! I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!
HMMM! A MOVING TARGET!

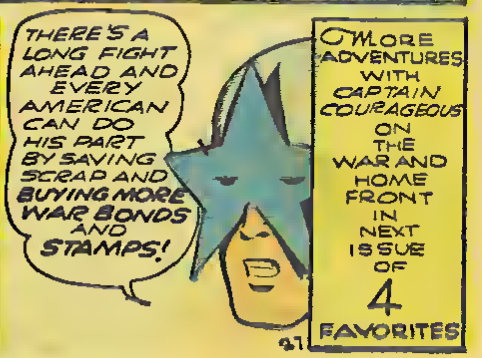

HEY, YOU SON OF A SON OF A GUN! CATCH!
NO! Y!!!!!!!


CRASH!
A CLEAN STRIKE SOLDIER!
KIRBY HIGBY COULDN'T A DONE IT PRETTIER!


A SHORT WHILE LATER, THE AMERICANS AND CHINESE GUERILLAS LEAVE, AND DEATH IS THE TOWN'S ONLY GARRISON


THE ARMIES OF THE GISSIMO ARE THAT WAY - NO MORE ISLAND DWARFS BETWEEN YOU AND THEY!
WE GO TO JOIN THE GISSIMO, THEN, BACK TO OUR BASE!


THERE WE WILL GET MORE PLANES AND MORE BOMBS TO BLAST THE CITIES OF THE ISLAND DWARFS! NOT UNTIL ALL JAPS ARE DRIVEN FROM CHINESE SOIL WILL WE STOP FIGHTING!


THERE'S A LONG FIGHT AHEAD AND EVERY AMERICAN CAN DO HIS PART BY SAVING SCRAP AND BUYING MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!
MORE ADVENTURES WITH CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS ON THE WAR AND HOME FRONT IN NEXT ISSUE OF 4 FAVORITES

UNKNOWN S

THIS IS THE STORY OF AN AMERICAN...A STORY SOME SAY SHOULD NEVER HAD BEEN TOLD, BECAUSE A DEAD HERO SHOULD BE LEFT TO DIE FOREVER AT PEACE; BUT WHEN PVT. GEORGE SMITH, U.S.A. DIED HE KNEW THAT HIS SACRIFICE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN VAIN, UNLESS WHAT HE LEARNED WAS TOLD TO ALL...THAT A MAN IS NOT A HERO SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS BRAVE, BUT A MAN BECOMES A HERO WHEN HE KNOWS A WAY OF LIFE WORTH LIVING FOR, IS ALSO WORTH FIGHTING AND DYING FOR!

OUR STORY ENDS SOMEWHERE ON THE NEW FRONT. PVT. GEORGE SMITH, U.S.A. HERO #1 OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS...

"OUR STORY STARTED SOMETIME BACK, IN A SMALL TOWN IN AMERICA. GEORGE SMITH WAS JUST ANOTHER BOY LIKE THE MILLIONS OF OTHERS IN UNCLE SAM'S VAST NEW ARMY.

HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, MRS. BROWN

THANK YOU, GEORGE

HE HAD A KID BROTHER AND A DOG AND A GIRL. HE FISHED AND SWAM AND PLAYED BASEBALL.

ATTA BOY, GEORGE! KNOCK IT OUTTA THE LOT!

HE WASN'T VERY BIG, OR BRAVE OR STRONG. HE HAD HIS FIGHTS, WON SOME, LOST MOST, BECAUSE HE WAS SAP ENOUGH TO PICK ON THE BIGGER GUYS.

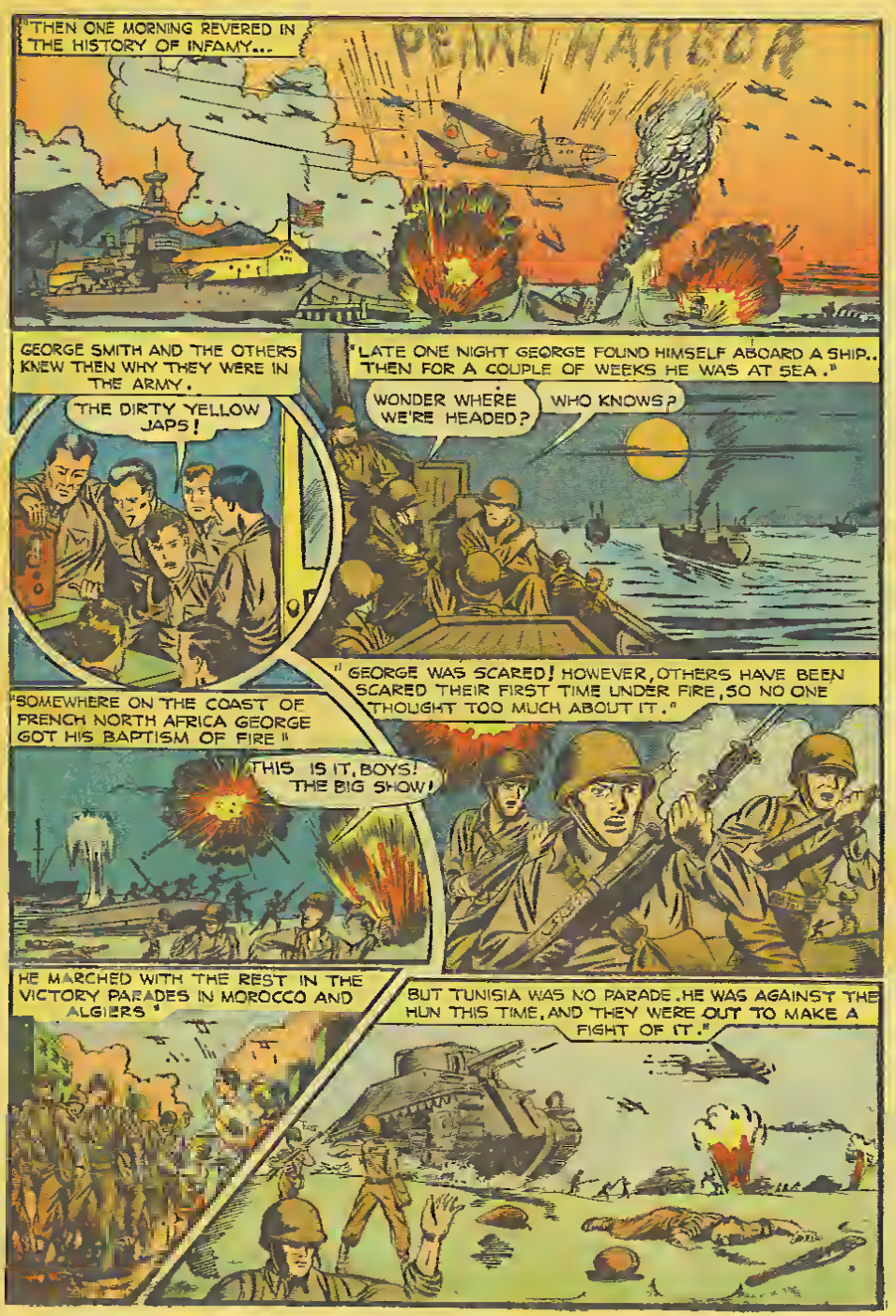
LAY OFF, BUTCH! HE'S HAD ENOUGH!

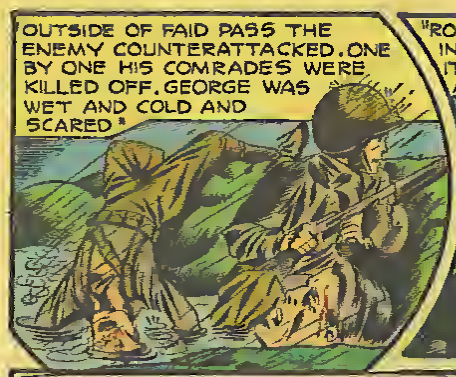
SOLDIER

GEORGE DIDN'T KNOW TO TELL WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT WHEN ONE DAY, IN WASHINGTON SOMEONE PICKED HIS NUMBER OUT OF A FISH BOWL.
2314

"BUT LIKE MILLIONS OF OTHERS, GEORGE WAS IN THE ARMY AND ON HIS WAY TO CAMP."
YOU'RE IN THE ARMY NOW. YOU'RE NOT BEHIND A PLOW!

HE TOOK HIS BASIC, DID HIS GRIPPING. HE WAS PART OF THE ARMY BUT HE STILL HAD NO IDEA WHY.


"THEN ONE MORNING REVERED IN THE HISTORY OF INFAMY...
PEARL HARBOR
GEORGE SMITH AND THE OTHERS KNEW THEN WHY THEY WERE IN THE ARMY.
THE DIRTY YELLOW JAPS!
"LATE ONE NIGHT GEORGE FOUND HIMSELF ABOARD A SHIP.. THEN FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS HE WAS AT SEA."
WONDER WHERE WE'RE HEADED?
WHO KNOWS?
"GEORGE WAS SCARED! HOWEVER, OTHERS HAVE BEEN SCARED THEIR FIRST TIME UNDER FIRE, SO NO ONE THOUGHT TOO MUCH ABOUT IT."
"SOMEWHERE ON THE COAST OF FRENCH NORTH AFRICA GEORGE GOT HIS BAPTISM OF FIRE"
THIS IS IT, BOYS! THE BIG SHOW!
HE MARCHED WITH THE REST IN THE VICTORY PARADES IN MOROCCO AND ALGIERS"
BUT TUNISIA WAS NO PARADE. HE WAS AGAINST THE HUN THIS TIME, AND THEY WERE OUT TO MAKE A FIGHT OF IT."


OUTSIDE OF FAID PASS THE ENEMY COUNTERATTACKED. ONE BY ONE HIS COMRADES WERE KILLED OFF. GEORGE WAS WET AND COLD AND SCARED.

"ROMMEL WAS THROWING HIS ALL AT THE YANKS. IN A LAST DESPERATE EFFORT, AND TO GEORGE IT SEEMED THE SPEARHEAD OF THE ATTACK WAS AIMED AT HIM."
I'M ALL ALONE! WHAT CAN I DO AGAINST TANKS!..I WISH I WERE SOMEWHERE ELSE

I WISH I WERE ANYWHERE ELSE, ANYWHERE. THIS ISN'T MY WAR! I DIDN'T WANT IT! I'D SELL MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL OR TO HITLER JUST TO BE SAFE!

THIS IS IT! THIS IS THE FINISH!

WH...WHO... ARE YOU?
THE DEVIL... HITLER...EITHER ONE OR BOTH... TAKE YOUR CHOICE. I'VE COME TO GRANT YOUR WISH! I SHALL GIVE YOU SAFETY IN RETURN FOR YOUR SOUL!

I OWN THE BODIES OF MANY, YET IN SPITE OF ALL MY CONQUESTS, NO MAN HAS YET GIVEN UNTO ME HIS SOUL!
YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR SAFETY! IN A 100 DAYS I SHALL RETURN! THEN YOU MUST KEEP YOUR PART OF THE BARGAIN. GIVE UNTO MY KEEPING YOUR IMMORTAL SOUL! HA! HA! HA!
WHENEVER THE DEMOCRACIES FACE DIRE TIMES, I APPEAR. AT THIS MOMENT I FELT A STRANGE TUG, BUT WHERE IT WAS, AND WHAT IT WAS, I COULD NOT FATHOM!
"WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARED GEORGE SAW THE TANKS STILL THUNDERING DOWN ON HIM... HE THOUGHT HIS VISION HAD BEEN A DREAM, OR PERHAPS HIS IMAGINATION."
"THINKING THIS WAS THE END, HE SHOOK HIS FEARS AND DETERMIN--ED TO SELL HIS LIFE DEARLY."
"SHELLS BURST--- BULLETS WHISTLED PAST, DEATH WHISPERED AND CLUTCH--ED AT HIM, YET COULD NOT CLAIM HIM!"
"HIS FIRST GRENADE WRECKED A TANK!"

"A BULLET FROM HIS TOMMY GUN FOUND THE VITALS OF A MARK IV."

"SEARING LEAD BURNED DOWN WAVES OF NAZI INFANTRY."

WHEN AMERICAN RESERVES ARRIVED, THEY FOUND PVT. GEORGE SMITH SINGLE-HANDEDLY HOLDING BACK THE VAUNTED MIGHT OF ROMMEL'S AFRIKA-KORPS."

HOLY HAT! LOOKA THAT GUY FIGHT!

"THEY CARRIED HIM FROM THE FIELD... THE GREATEST OVATION EVER ACCORDED A SIMPLE AMERICAN SOLDIER!"

HOORAY FOR GEORGE SMITH!

'RAY SMITH!

"BUT GEORGE SMITH KNEW NO TRIUMPH AND NO JOY! HE KNEW NOW, WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS IMAGINATION WAS BITTER EVIL TRUTH."

GEORGE SMITH WAS ALIVE ONLY BECAUSE HIS SOUL WAS CHAINED IN ETERNAL THRALLDOM TO HITLER!
"GEORGE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIS FATE WOULD BE WHEN HITLER CLAIMED HIS OWN. HE DIDN'T KNOW BUT HE FEARED."
I'LL FOOL THAT DEVIL! I'LL FIGHT SO HARD, KILL SO MANY GERMANS THAT HITLER WILL HAVE TO SET ME FREE... FOR HIS OWN SAFETY!
"ALWAYS IN THE SPEARHEAD, GEORGE PLUNGED INTO DETERMINED ACTION. FROM GAFSA THROUGH TO BIZERTE THE NAZIS GREW TO KNOW AND FEAR THIS YANKEE DEMON WHO SANG AS HE KILLED AND LAUGHED IN THE FACE OF DEATH."
THE AMERICANS GREW TO KNOW HIM TOO. HE WAS DECORATED BY GENERALS AND PRAISED BY ALL."
FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION!
... SUDDENLY ...
YOU!
YES, MY END OF THE BARGAIN IS COMPLETE! NOW YOU MUST KEEP YOURS!
"IN TUNISIA, VICTORY WAS OURS. THEN ONE NIGHT, 100 DAYS LATER, GEORGE SMITH WALKED ALONG A LONELY ROAD...

MY SOUL IS MY OWN! YOU SHAN'T HAVE IT!
HA!HA! HA! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BACK OUT OF A BARGAIN WITH ME! YOU'RE OODMED! DDDMED! AND WITH YOU ALL THE FOOL AMERICANS WHO BELIEVE IN YOU!
"AT THIS MOMENT I KNEW WHERE I WAS NEEDED ... AN AMERICAN, A FREE PERSON FACED HIS DARKEST HOUR, AND I RUSHED TO HIS AID."
LOOK! THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER!
HE CAN DO ME NO HARM! HIS POWER IS ONLY OVER MORTALS! AND SO LONG AS I OWN YOUR SOUL, HE CAN GIVE YOU NO AID!
"HITLER'S WORDS WERE TRUE! I WAS HELPLESS TO PREVENT WHAT FOLLOWED."
YOU HAVE BECOME A LEGEND OF HEROISM! BUT NOW, INSTEAD OF HAVING A SIMPLE VICTORY OVER THE MASTER OF GOOD BY OWNING THE SOUL OF MORTALMAN, I'LL HAVE TWO VICTORIES! FIRST YOU'LL BECOME A COWARD, THEN A TRAITOR TO AMERICA! THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN YOU WILL LOSE FAITH IN AMERICA! THROUGH YOU I SHALL SHATTER THE WAR-TIME MORALE OF YOUR NATION!
ORDERS TO OPEN THE NEW FRONT CAME A FEW DAYS LATER. IN LANDING BARGES THE YANKS MOVE TO ATTACK.
WE'VE BEEN GIVEN THE HONOR OF ESTABLISHING THE BRIDGEHEAD! IF WE FAIL, THE ENTIRE OFFENSIVE WILL ALSO FAIL! WE MUST NOT FAIL!
HERE WE GO AGAIN, GEORGE!
WE'RE ALL BEHIND YOU, GEORGIE BOY!
LEAD ON, GEORGE! WE'LL FOLLOW YOU TO HELL!

"HIGH ABOVE THE AERIAL UMBRELLA, I WATCHED BELOW. IF HITLER HAD DONE HIS WORK WELL, GEORGE WOULD CRACK UP! IF GEORGE CRACKED SO WOULD THOSE MEN WHO LOOKED TO HIM FOR LEADERSHIP!"
"BUT HITLER HAD NOT FAILED. GEORGE SMITH BURST AWAY FROM THE REST, AND SPED FOR THE SAFETY OF A SHELL HOLE.
HE WHIMPERED IN ABJECT FEAR, WAS COLD AND COWARDLY...FOR HIS SOUL WAS NO LONGER HIS OWN"
NO! NO! I'M AFRAID! AFRAID!
"I HAD A DUTY TO PERFORM. BEFORE ANY OF HIS COMRADES COULD SEE HIM I RACED TO HIS SIDE"
SNAP OUT OF IT, YOU CAN'T CRACK UP! YOU'RE NOT IMPORTANT, IT'S AMERICA!
I CAN'T, I CAN'T,
FIGHT IT, MAN! FIGHT! WITH COURAGE YOU CAN REGAIN YOUR SOUL!
I CAN'T HAVE COURAGE I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT COURAGE IS!
THEY NEED YOUR INSPIRATION IN BATTLE! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LET THEM DOWN!
UGH!
SOCK!
"HASTILY I DONNED HIS UNIFORM"
"LEAVING HIM HALF BURIED, I RACED TO TAKE HIS PLACE LEADING THE REGIMENT INTO BATTLE"
THERE'S GEORGE! C'MON MEN AFTER HIM! WE'LL WIPE UP ON THESE HEINIES!

"IT WAS A BRIEF AND TERRIBLE BATTLE ...THE ENEMY BROKE BEFORE THE FURY OF OUR ASSAULT."
"WHEN IT WAS OVER I RETURNED TO THE SHELL HOLE WHERE I LEFT GEORGE SMITH."
GET BACK TO YOUR REGIMENT! YOU'RE STILL A HERO!
"I HAD DEFEATED HITLER'S FIRST PLAN BUT HIS SCHEME DID NOT STOP THERE"
NEXT TIME I MUST DRAW THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER AWAY...AND I THINK I KNOW HOW TO DO THAT!
THE BRIDGHEAD THE YANKS HAD WON WAS IN A VALLEY HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS WAS A PASS WHERE ONE MAN COULD STOP AN ARMY. THE MAN GIVEN THAT HONOR WAS GEORGE SMITH. FOLLOWING THE ORDERS OF THEIR MASTER THE GERMANS MASSED BEHIND THE PASS PREPARING TO TAKE THE YANKS IN A SURPRISE ATTACK.
SMITH WILL LET YOU THROUGH THE PASS. WHEN THE VICTORY IS OURS WE SHALL TAKE SMITH TO BERLIN. THERE HE SHALL BROADCAST TO AMERICA THAT WE ARE THEIR FRIENDS, AND THE ENGLISH AND THE RUSSIANS THEIR ENEMIES.
FEELING THAT SOMETHING WAS AFOOT, I JOINED SMITH AT THE HEAD OF THE PASS.
"THEN JUST BEFORE THE ENEMY STRUCK, I FELT AN INNER URGE!
YOU!
YES! I'M HERE TO SEE THAT YOU REMAIN IN THE EYES OF THE TROOPS THE LEGEND OF HEROISM THAT YOU HAVE BECOME!
ANOTHER LIDICE! HITLER IS MASSACRING THE POPULATION OF A TOWN IN NORWAY...TO DRAW ME AWAY FROM HERE!

"HITLER KNEW I COULD NOT BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE, NOR COULD I STAND IDLY BY AND KNOW THAT INNOCENTS WERE BEING SLAUGHTERED.. I RACED OFF!"

"BUT I STOPPED FIRST BEFORE THE THRONE OF THE MASTER OF GOOD."

FREE THEM, ALMIGHTY ONE!

BUT THEY HAVE FOUGHT THEIR LAST BATTLE! THEY CAN FIGHT NO MORE

AS I RACED TOWARD NORWAY, THE GERMANS PREPARED FOR ACTION.

ACH TUNG! ADVANCE!

GEORGE SMITH SAW THEM COMING..FROM HIS POSITION HE COULD HOLD THEM FOREVER. BUT HE HAD NO SOUL AND WAS A SLAVE TO HITLER.

SUDDENLY!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT!

WE HAVE COME TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR SOUL!

I AM WEAK! I CAN HAVE NO COURAGE AND ONLY WITH COURAGE CAN I REGAIN MY SOUL!

WE HAVE COME TO TELL YOU WHAT WE KNOW. SO YOU MAY HAVE COURAGE!

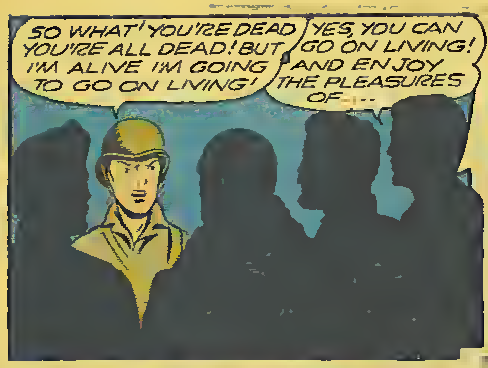
WHO ARE YOU?

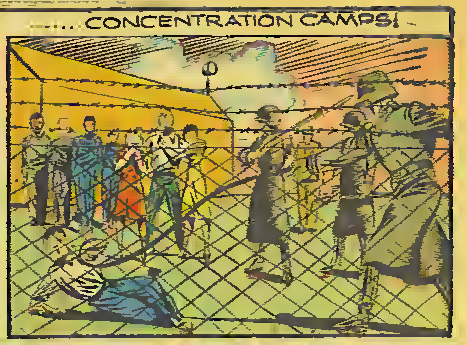
MEYER LEVIN! I DIED FIGHTING TO PRESERVE THE LAND THAT HAD GIVEN FREEDOM TO MY PEOPLE!

I LIVED IN LIDICE I DIED RATHER THAN BETRAY A COMRADE

I'M ONE OF DOOLITTLE'S BOYS I WAS EXECUTED BY THE JAPS!

COLIN KELLY! I DIED SO YOU AND ALL FREE AMERICANS MAY LIVE IN THE LAND WE KNOW AND LOVE!


SO WHAT! YOU'RE DEAD YOU'RE ALL DEAD! BUT I'M ALIVE I'M GOING TO GO ON LIVING!
YES, YOU CAN GO ON LIVING! AND ENJOY THE PLEASURES OF...

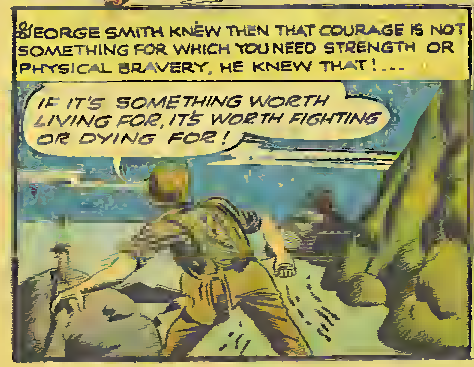

...CONCENTRATION CAMPS!

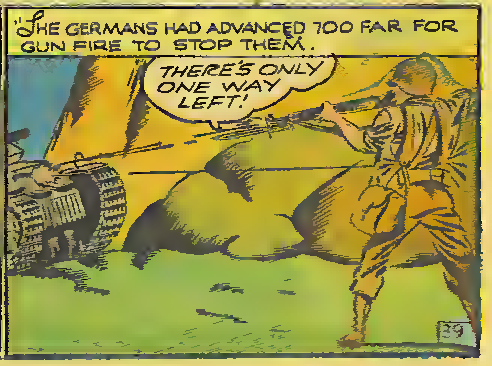
...THE BOOKS YOU WANT TO READ! TRUTH! BURNED

...YOUR CHILDREN! SLAVES TO HITLER'S BRUTAL HIRELINGS!

... COVENTRY! ROTTERDAM! NAZI KULTURE

NO! I DON'T WANT TO LIVE FOR THAT! I WANT AMERICA! FREE AND BRAVE!
THEN FIGHT FOR WHAT YOU WANT!


GEORGE SMITH KNEW THEN THAT COURAGE IS NOT SOMETHING FOR WHICH YOU NEED STRENGTH OR PHYSICAL BRAVERY, HE KNEW THAT!...
IF IT'S SOMETHING WORTH LIVING FOR, IT'S WORTH FIGHTING OR DYING FOR!


"THE GERMANS HAD ADVANCED TOO FAR FOR GUN FIRE TO STOP THEM.
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY LEFT!

"TAKING AN ARM FULL OF GRENADES HE WALKED FORWARD, BULLETS WHISTLED AT HIM... BIT DEEP INTO HIS FLESH! FOR GEORGE SMITH HAD FOUND HIS SOUL... NO MORE DID DEATH AVOID HIM. BLEEDING PROFUSELY HE STAGGERED FORWARD, BIT THE PIN OUT OF A GRENADE..."
"...AND FLUNG HIS DYING BODY BENEATH THE TREAD OF THE LEADING TANK!
"THE LEDGE CRUMBLED AWAY! THE GERMAN ADVANCE WAS STOPPED BEFORE IT STARTED!"
"THE NEXT DAY THE MANGLED REMAINS OF HIS BODY WERE FOUND.
HE DIED AS HE LIVED, A REAL HERO!
...AND A TRUE AMERICAN!
AND SO WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS, GEORGE SMITH WAS BURIED.
40
BUT GEORGE SMITH IS NOT DEAD! TOGETHER WITH LIBERTY'S OTHER HEROES HE SHALL MARCH ON FOREVER... IN IMMORTALITY!

LASH LIGHTNING

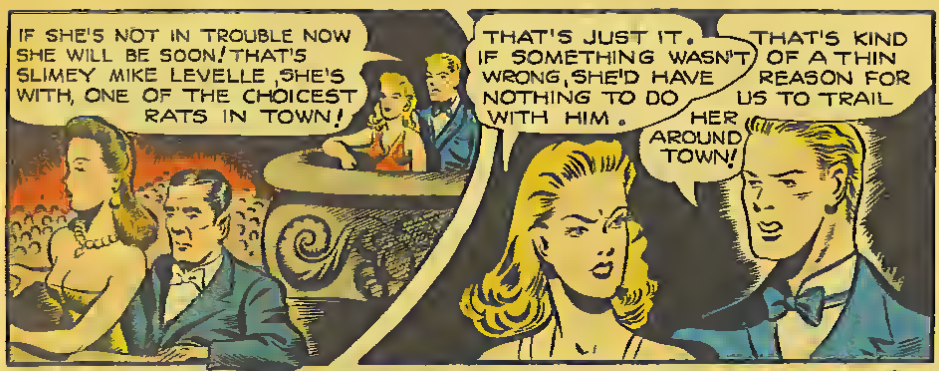
"DIE! YOU MUST DIE! AND BY MY HAND! GASPED THE LIGHTNING GIRL THROUGH BLOODLESS LIPS! THEN LIGHTNING KNEW THAT CERTAIN WEIRD UNHOLY MUSIC HAD REACHED HER AND HYPNOTIZED HER! IT MADE HER LIKE ALL THOSE OTHER VICTIMS, A HELPLESS SOULSSLAVE OF THE CONSCIENCELESS OF THE MAESTRO!

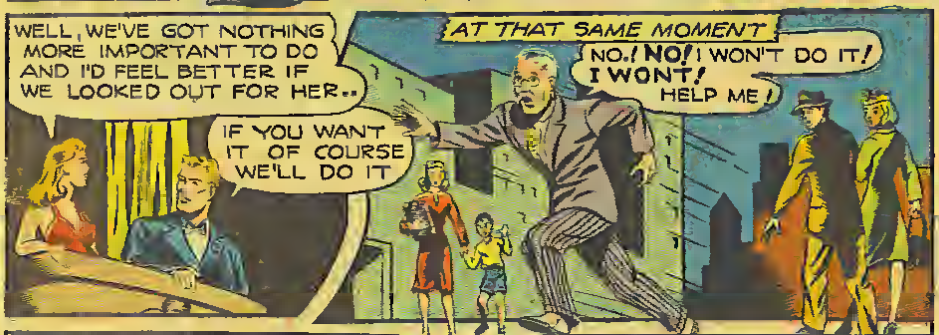
IN THE CITY OPERA HOUSE, LASH LIGHTNING AND ISABEL BLAKE, THE LIGHTNING GIRL ... TRALA, LA

HO HUM! OF ALL PLACES TO SPEND A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER NIGHT WITH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL

WHY, LASH, THIS IS SO SUDDEN! BUT NICE!

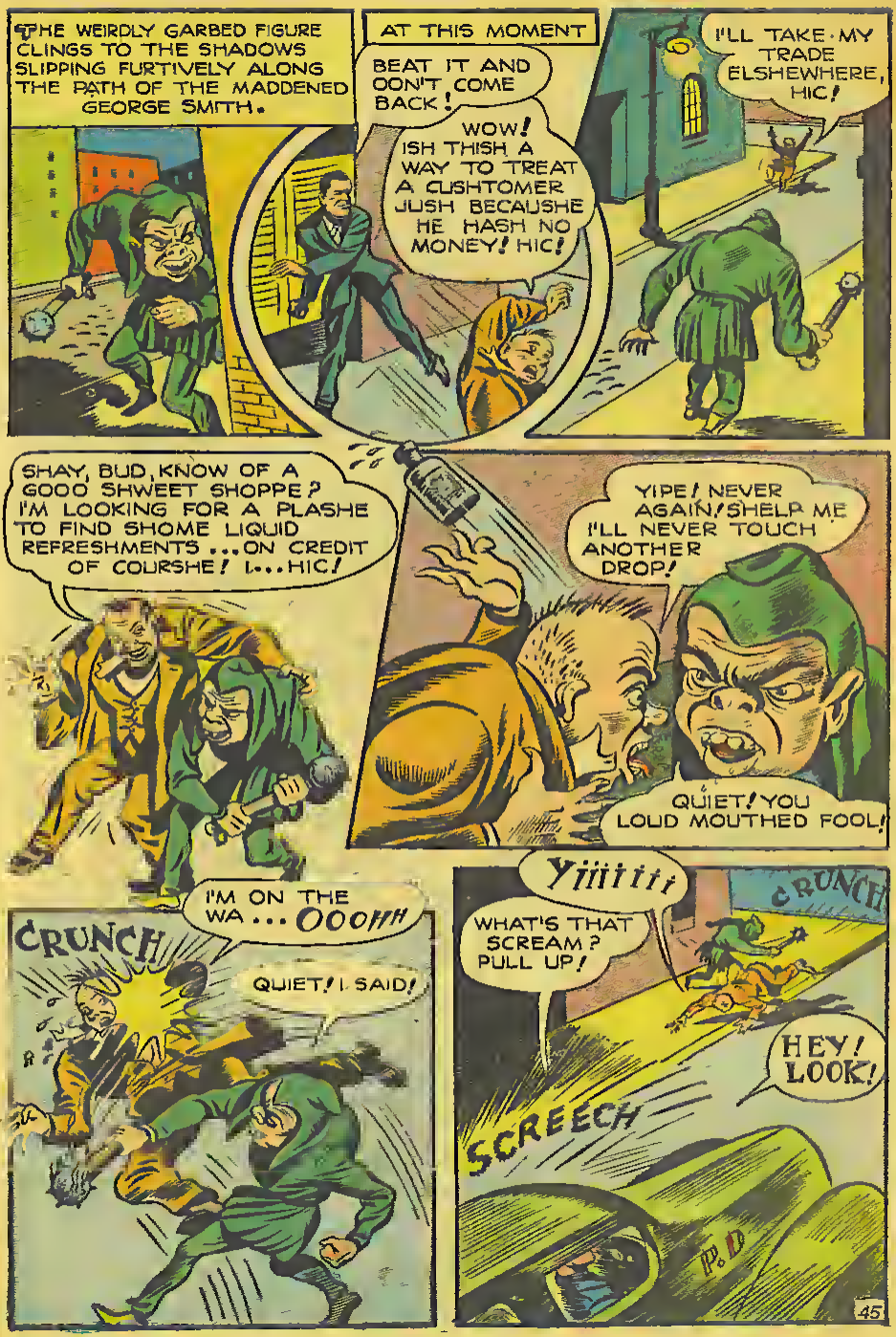
OH, I JUST WANTED YOU TO GET A LOOK AT MY GIRL FRIEND PAT OGDEN, UP AHEAD. I THINK SHE IS IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.


IF SHE'S NOT IN TROUBLE NOW SHE WILL BE SOON! THAT'S SLIMEY MIKE LEVELLE, SHE'S WITH, ONE OF THE CHOICEST RATS IN TOWN!
THAT'S JUST IT. IF SOMETHING WASN'T WRONG, SHE'D HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM.
THAT'S KIND OF A THIN REASON FOR US TO TRAIL HER AROUND TOWN!


WELL, WE'VE GOT NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT TO DO AND I'D FEEL BETTER IF WE LOOKED OUT FOR HER..
IF YOU WANT IT OF COURSE WE'LL DO IT
AT THAT SAME MOMENT
NO! NO! I WON'T DO IT! I WONT! HELP ME!

I WON'T DO IT! I WON'T LISTEN TO THAT MUSIC...EVEN IF IT KILLS ME!
EASY, MISTER! TAKE IT EASY!
NUTS
WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU
DON'T LET HIM GET ME! PLEASE! HELP ME!
HOLY GEE! THAT'S GEORGE SMITH! THE RICHEST BROKER IN TOWN!

WONDER WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM!
YOU WON'T LET THEM GET ME! YOU WON'T MAKE ME LISTEN TO THAT MUSIC!
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU! SOMEONE GET A DOC!
AND IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN...
YES, MAESTRO!
FOOL! YOU LET SMITH GET AWAY! BRING HIM BACK OR I'LL FLAY YOU ALIVE!


THE WEIRDLY GARBED FIGURE CLINGS TO THE SHADOWS SLIPPING FURTIVELY ALONG THE PATH OF THE MADDENED GEORGE SMITH.
AT THIS MOMENT
BEAT IT AND OON'T COME BACK!
WOW! ISH THISH A WAY TO TREAT A CUSHTOMER JUSH BECAUSHE HE HASH NO MONEY! HIC!
I'LL TAKE MY TRADE ELSHEWHERE, HIC!
SHAY, BUD, KNOW OF A GOOO SHWEET SHOPPE? I'M LOOKING FOR A PLASHE TO FIND SHOME LIQUID REFRESHMENTS ...ON CREDIT OF COURSHE! I...HIC!
YIPE! NEVER AGAIN! SHELP ME I'LL NEVER TOUCH ANOTHER DROP!
QUIET! YOU LOUD MOUTHED FOOL!
I'M ON THE WA ... OOOHH
CRUNCH
QUIET! I SAID!
Yiiiiii
CRUNCH
WHAT'S THAT SCREAM? PULL UP!
HEY! LOOK!
SCREECH
P.D

HEY! STOP!

WAIT A MINUTE, YOU HALF PINT MURDERER!
NO!

SCRUNCH

WHY YOU ...
OH!

I'LL KILL ...
NOT ANY MORE, YOU WON'T!

CRACK
UGH!

THROW THE BOOK AT HIM, CHIEF! THE LITTLE MURDERER KILLED SVENSEN IN COLD BLOOD!

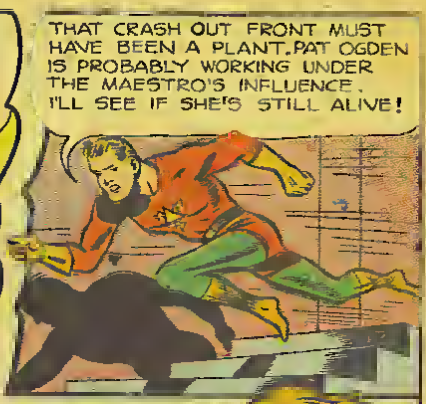
MOVE ALONG THERE, YOU DIRTY COP KILLER!
NO! NO! HE'S COME TO GET ME!
IT'S THE MAESTRO'S HEADSMAN! HE'S COME TO KILL ME! DON'T LET HIM GET ME!
DON'T WORRY! HE'S DONE HIS LAST KILLING!
IN THE LAIR OF THE MAESTRO.
OH MAESTRO... MIGHTY RULER OF THE SOULS OF MEN... YOUR SLAVE, THE HEADSMAN HAS FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE POLICE!
THE FOOL! THE UNDEPENDABLE FOOL! NOW WE MUST FREE HIM! GET YOUR DAUGHTER...I HAVE USE OF HER! FOLLOW PLAN 3 FOR R DAY.
CULTURE, HOHUM! IF WE'RE TO FOLLOW PAT AROUND, TELL HER TO DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN BASEBALL, THE MOVIES OR....
LA LA LA LA LA LA LA
I WI... LOOK!
THE MAESTRO IS THE MASTER OF THE SOULS OF MEN
PLAN 3 FOR R DAY
I HEAR! I OBEY!
THAT'S GOT THE EARMARKS OF SOMETHING PHONEY! YOU STAY HERE AND WATCH SLIMEY LEVELLE. I'LL TRAIL PAT AND SEE WHAT'S UP.
OKAY! GOOD HUNTING!

UNSEEN BY ANYONE LASH SHEDS HIS CIVILIAN GARMENTS AND STANDS REVEALED IN THE COLORFUL UNIFORM OF LIGHTNING PROTECTOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS
SILENT AS THE NIGHT, LIGHTNING FOLLOWS PAT OGDEN ON HER TRAIL OF MYSTERY AND DEATH!
LIGHTNING ZOOMS TO THE RESCUE BUT NOT SOON ENOUGH!
WHAT? SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
POLICE STATION
SCREECH
INSIDE POLICE HEADQUARTERS
WHAT'S THAT?
A SMACK UP!
GRAB A LOOK!
BOY! A WRECK!
THERE'S SMITH! SILENCE HIM!
AS THE CRASH DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE FRONT OF THE POLICE STATION, THE MAESTRO AND HIS SLAVES ENTER FROM THE REAR.....
THE MAESTRO IS THE MASTER OF THE SOULS OF MEN!
NO! AAAAGH!
TAT TAT
AT TAT TAT TAT AT

TOMMY GUNS! IN HEADQUARTERS!
RA!
TAT
TAT
TAT
TAT
OUT OF MY WAY! LET A FAST MAN THROUGH!
NO! AAAAGH
HEY! IT'S LIGHTNING!
HOLD YOUR FIRE! WHEN THE POLICE ENTER MOW THEM DOWN WITHOUT MERCY!
MAESTRO! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
LIGHTNING! NO, SPARKED UP FOOL! IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN YOU AND THE LIGHTNING GIRL TO KILL THE MASTER OF MEN'S SOULS!
IT...IT'S LIGHTNING!
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A LIGHTNING BOLT!
HAH! YOUR LIGHTNING BOLTS HAVE NO EFFECT ON ME! MY ANTENNA SCATTERS THEM HARMLESSLY INTO SPACE!

I STILL HAVE MY FISTS! SEE IF YOU SCATTER THEM WITH YOUR CHIN!
GET HIM! GET THEM ALL!
RAT TAT TAT TAT
LIGHTNING SETS UP A WALL OF ELECTRICAL POWER THAT THE BULLETS CANNOT PENETRATE.
YOUR BULLETS DO HIM NO HARM! STOP HIM WITH YOUR BODIES.... WITH YOUR FLESH!
LET ME GET A SHOT AT THOSE MURDERING GUNMEN!
NO! DON'T KILL THEM! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?
THEY'LL HOLD HIM! WE HAVE WORK ELSEWHERE!
NOW THE MAESTRO MADE HIS GETAWAY!
HEY! THIS IS WILBUR P. JUSTUS, BANKER! AND OVER HERE IS THE SUBWAY CONTRACTOR, ROSWELL MARYLAN!
AND HERE IS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL!
WHAT GOES ON HERE?
THEY SEEM TO BE DRUGGED OR HYPNOTIZED THEY HAVE NO WILL OF THEIR OWN AND DO WHAT THE MAESTRO COMMANDS!

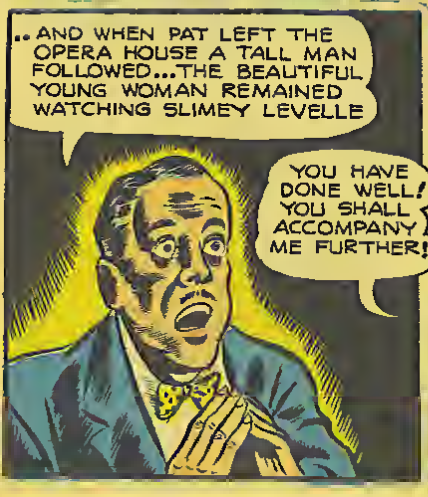
KEEP THEM SAFE HERE! WE'LL QUESTION THEM WHEN THEY COME AROUND!
AFTER YOU SOCK THEM YOU OUGHT TO SAY IF THEY COME AROUND


THAT CRASH OUT FRONT MUST HAVE BEEN A PLANT. PAT OGDEN IS PROBABLY WORKING UNDER THE MAESTRO'S INFLUENCE. I'LL SEE IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE!

GONE! THE MAESTRO MUST HAVE TAKEN HER TO KEEP HER FROM FALLING INTO MY HANDS OR THAT OF THE POLICE!

SHE MUST BE STILL ALIVE OR THE MAESTRO WOULDN'T BOTHER WITH HER! I'LL LOOK AROUND AND TRY TO FIGURE THIS OUT!

IN THE MAESTRO'S LAIR....
I AM YOUR SLAVE ASSIGNED TO WATCH PAT OGDEN AND SLIMEY LEVELLE
YES! SPEAK UP SLAVE!


..AND WHEN PAT LEFT THE OPERA HOUSE A TALL MAN FOLLOWED...THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN REMAINED WATCHING SLIMEY LEVELLE
YOU HAVE DONE WELL! YOU SHALL ACCOMPANY ME FURTHER!

WHENEVER ANYONE SUSPECTS, IT IS WISER TO PUT THEM UNDER MY SPELL BEFORE THEY CAN DO ANY HARM!

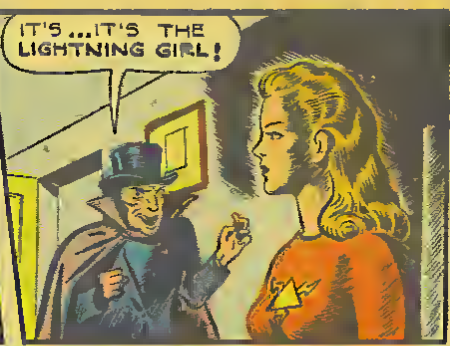
THERE SHE IS!
MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME AND WAIT FOR LASH... WONDER IF ANYTHING HAPPENED

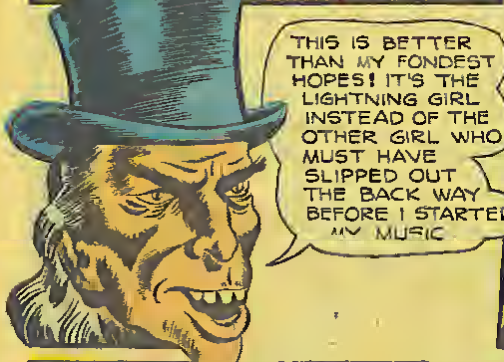
NOW! ONE MORE SLAVE SHALL HEAR THE HYPNOTIC SOUL-BINDING SONG OF THE MAESTRO

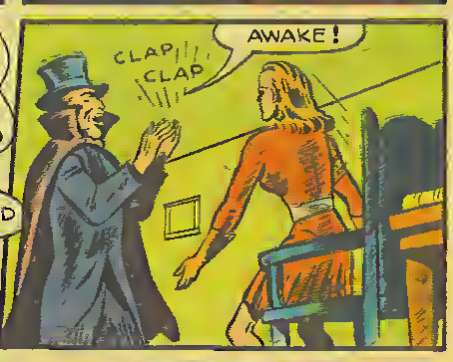
THAT MUSIC! WHERE DOES IT COME FROM..SOMETHING'S WRONG...I SHOULD BE THE LIGHTNING GIRL,BUT...

SUDDENLY THE HYPNOTIC MUSIC STOPS.... BUT THE MIND OF THE LIGHTNING GIRL IS CHAINED, TO THE SOUL OF THE MAESTRO!

WAIT HERE! I SHALL ENTER AND TELL MY NEW SLAVE OF HER DUTIES!

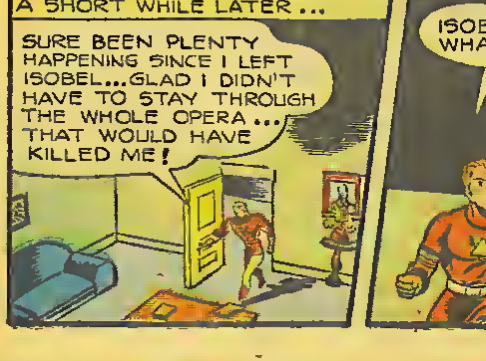

IT'S ...IT'S THE LIGHTNING GIRL!

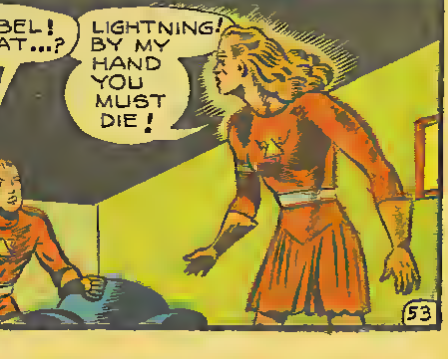

THIS IS BETTER THAN MY FONDEST HOPES! IT'S THE LIGHTNING GIRL INSTEAD OF THE OTHER GIRL WHO MUST HAVE SLIPPED OUT THE BACK WAY BEFORE I STARTED MY MUSIC


CLAP CLAP
AWAKE!

YES
I AM THE MAESTRO, YOUR MASTER! THE MASTER OF THE SOULS OF MEN!

LIGHTNING WILL COME! HE MUST DIE BY YOUR HAND!
YES, MAESTRO! I HEAR I SHALL OBEY! THE MAESTRO IS THE MASTER OF THE SOULS OF MEN!


A SHORT WHILE LATER ...
SURE BEEN PLENTY HAPPENING SINCE I LEFT ISOBEL...GLAD I DIDN'T HAVE TO STAY THROUGH THE WHOLE OPERA ... THAT WOULD HAVE KILLED ME!


ISOBEL! WHAT...?
LIGHTNING! BY MY HAND YOU MUST DIE!

UNDER THE SPELL OF THE MAESTRO'S SOUL-IMPRISONING MUSIC, THE LIGHTNING GIRL HURLS A BOLT OF ELECTRIC FURY AT LIGHTNING.

BY MY HANDS YOU MUST DIE!

CRACK! BOOM!

FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN SEE, LIGHTNING SPEEDS FORWARD, AS HE DODGES THE BOLTS.

CRACK

THE MAESTRO! HE'S GOTTEN HER! SHE'S UNDER HIS SPELL!

BOOM

I'M SORRY, ISOBEL.... BUT THIS IS THE LEAST PAINFUL WAY!

DIE! BY MY HAND YOU MUST DIE! UGH!

WITH HER ARMS GROUNDED AND SERVING AS POLES... NOW A SLIGHT BOLT SHOULD SHOCK IT OUT OF HER!

CRACK

SNAP

WHE ...WHERE AM I?

WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! YOU'RE OKAY NOW...

LIGHTNING'S ELECTRIC POWER SHOCKS THE LIGHTNING GIRL'S MIND FREE FROM THE SOUL-BINDING CHAINS.

...BUT LET'S GET MOVING! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!
CAREFUL NOW, WE GOT WORK TO DO DOWN THERE...AND DON'T USE YOUR BOLTS, YOU'RE LIABLE TO KILL THE WRONG PEOPLE!
NATIONAL BANK
MARYLAN SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION CO.
IN THE SUBWAY EXCAVATION....
OKAY, SET OFF THE CHARGE AND WE'LL BE IN THE BANK!
DYNAMITE
AH, MILLIONS! AND ALL MINE!
BOOM
SLAPP
WH..LIGHTNING AND THE LIGHTNING GIRL!
AND VERY MUCH ALIVE!
YOUR BOLTS WON'T AFFECT ME!
NO! BUT AS I SAID BEFORE OUR FISTS WILL!
SCATTER THIS...OR IT'LL SCATTER YOU!
UGH!

HERE! SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO
UGH! NO! NO MORE! NO MORE!
AW, PLEASE, JUST ONCE
OW!
LIKE THIS!
A BEAUTY!
SOCK
A SHORT WHILE LATER...
YOU CAN FREE THESE BUSINESS MEN--THEY WERE UNDER THE MAESTRO'S SPELL EXCEPT FOR THIS LITTLE RAT WHO KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING! HE WAS THE MAESTRO'S TORTURER!
I DID SOME INVESTIGATING! GEORGE SMITH SOLD HIS BUSINESS AND PUT TWO MILLION DOLLARS INTO WILBUR JUSTUS' BANK--AND WHEN I SAW MARYLAN SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION CO. IN FRONT OF THE BANK I PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER..
A SPECIAL SPUR IN THE CONSTRUCTION LED DIRECTLY TO THE BANK VAULTS AND TO-NIGHT WAS THE LOGICAL TIME FOR THE MAESTRO TO DO HIS JOB... BEFORE THE MONEY WAS TRANSFERRED
PAT OGDEN AND SLIMEY MIKE LEVELLE WERE THE GANGSTER AND PRETTY GIRL ANGLE THAT THE MAESTRO PUT UNDER HIS SPELL...THE OTHERS WERE ALL WELL-TO-DO BUSINESS MEN FROM WHOM HE EXTRACTED MONEY
Later
THANKS FOR TELLING ME TO WATCH PAT OGDEN BUT I'D PREFER TO WATCH HER FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF A NIGHT-CLUB TABLE
SAY, WHAT'S WRONG IN WATCHING ME?
IT'S STILL A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT--BUT, NOT FOR THE OPERA
AMEN! I'VE HEARD ALL THE MUSIC I EVER WANT TO HEAR!
BUT MUSIC AND DEATH MIGHT BE THEIR ONLY ESCAPE IN NEXT ISSUE OF FAVORITES 4